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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/800,896	03/15/2004	Steve Sanchez	SANCHEZ #2	1502

7590 01/18/2007
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EXAMINER

VO, TUNG T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2621

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/18/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/800,896

Applicant(s)

SANCHEZ, STEVE

Examiner

Tung Vo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4,6,7,9-14,24,26 and 27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1,2,5,8,15-23 and 25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3,6,7,9-14,24,26 and 27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/06/06 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grein et al. (US 2001/0033344).

Re claim 27, Grein teaches an apparatus (fig. 1) for connection to a flat panel TV screen (Large LCD Screen of fig. 1) to improve the appearance thereof and to facilitate operation of audio and video functions related to said flat panel TV screen (A/V receiver of fig. 1), said flat panel TV screen (Large LCD Screen of fig. 1) having a screen viewing area and a housing surrounding the screen viewing area ([0038]), said apparatus including a frame ([0038]) surrounding the screen viewing area of the flat panel TV screen when the frame is connected to

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the flat panel TV screen (Large LCD Screen of fig. 1), and a wireless receiver (Antenna and Wireless A/V Receiver of fig. 1; Note it is intended that all such variations and modifications which fall within the scope or spirit of the appended claims be embraced thereby [0056]; therefore, one skilled in the art would obviously arrange the antenna and wireless receiver in the frame as suggested by Grein) incorporated in said frame for receiving wireless transmissions from a transmitter external of said frame operatively associated with audio/video equipment external of said frame and receiving electronic signals from said audio/video equipment, said receiver being operatively associated with said flat panel TV screen when the apparatus is connected to the flat panel TV screen for inputting said electronic signals into said flat panel TV screen (see details of figure 1).

3. Claims 3, 6, 7-14, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kohno et al. (US 5,343,257) in view of Grein et al. (US 2001/0033344).

Re claims 3, 6, 7-14, and 24, Kohno teaches an apparatus (figs. 6-11) for connection to a flat panel TV screen (11 of fig. 7) to improve the appearance thereof and to facilitate operation of audio and video functions related to said flat panel TV screen (Note the television has audio and video functions that are operated by the user remote control), said flat panel TV screen having a screen viewing area (11b of fig. 7) and a housing (7 and 17 of fig. 7) surrounding the screen viewing area, said apparatus including a frame (7 of fig. 7, Note the frame (7 of fig. 7) would obviously attached to or remove from the TV screen) having a frame opening (9 of fig. 7) larger than the size of the screen viewing area of the flat panel TV screen (11b of fig. 7, Note the viewing area (11b of fig. 7) is smaller than frame opening (9 of fig. 7)) and a mat releasably (17

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of fig. 1, Note a cover sheet formed of a relatively non-extensible sheet-shaped material, such as nylon, would be considered as a mat) attached to said frame extending inwardly from the frame into the frame opening (7 and 9 of fig. 7), said mat (Note the mat 17 has opening (18a, 18b, 18c and 18d of fig. 9) being formed of material (nylon) allowing passage there through of wireless control transmissions (Note the nylon cover sheet (17 of fig. 7) is transparent material that would allow the control transmissions passage through to operate the television; and the television has a control receiver for receiving the transmissions from the user wireless remote control) and having a mat opening (23 and 24 of fig. 11, Note the mat opening would be adjusted to be smaller than the frame opening) smaller than said frame opening, and connector structure (7, 12a, 12b, 13, and 14 of fig. 11) for connecting said releasably attached frame (7 of fig. 7) and mat (17 of fig. 7) to said flat panel TV screen (11 of fig. 7), said mat when said releasably attached frame and mat are connected to said flat panel TV screen by said connector structure extending from said frame toward said screen viewing area (13a, 14a, 17, 7 of fig. 7) and surrounding said screen viewing area (11b of fig. 7), said mat (23 and 24 of figs. 10 and 11, Note the mat opening is adjustable in the size allow the viewing area being seen through) being sized and configured to allow viewing of said screen viewing area through said frame opening (9 of fig. 9) and through said mat opening (23 and 24 of figs. 10 and 11); said releasably attached frame (7 of fig. 7) and mat (17 of fig. 7) cooperable to substantially cover said housing (10 of fig. 7) and substantially shield (23 and 24 of figs. 10 and 11, Note decorative plates (23 and 24 of fig. 7) would shield the housing) said housing from view by a person observing said screen viewing area while allowing control of audio and video functions by wireless control transmissions (Note the user wireless remote control); wherein said connector structure comprises a plurality of brackets attached to

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said frame and extending rearwardly from said frame (13, 14, 17 of fig. 7, Note the connector structure is attached to the frame (7 of fig. 7), so one skill in the art would use brackets to attach the mat to the frame (fig. 7)), said brackets defining recesses receiving said housing at spaced locations on said housing (figs. 10 and 11); and wherein said mat attachment structure (17 and 7 of fig. 7) maintains said mat in a substantially planar condition.

It is noted that Kohno does not particularly teach or suggest an electronic component receptacle operated by the wireless control transmissions as claimed.

However, Grein teaches additionally including an electronic component receptacle (fig. 1; Note Antenna, Wireless A/V Receiver, Left and Right Speaker, Remote Receiver, FM Radio, IR Motion Sensor, Sleep Timer, Small LCD, Large LCD) on said frame (see para. [0038]) and defining a receptacle interior for receiving at least one electronic component operatively associated with said flat panel TV screen (Large and Small LCDs of fig. 1) operable by wireless control transmissions from a control external of the apparatus (Wireless Remote Control or Infra-Red), said electronic component receptacle being disposed behind said frame and substantially hidden from view by a person positioned in front of said flat panel TV screen (Note the electronic component would obviously design to be hidden behind the television screen, most of the television has these features); wherein said electronic component receptacle is divided into a plurality of compartments, each defining a compartment interior, said receptacle interior being at least partially comprised of said compartment interiors, each said compartment interior for receiving a modular electronic component operable by said wireless control transmissions (See fig. 1); additionally including receptacle connector structure releasably connecting said electronic component receptacle to said frame (Antenna and Wireless A/V Receiver of fig. 1;

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Note it is intended that all such variations and modifications which fall within the scope or spirit of the appended claims be embraced thereby [0056]; therefore, one skilled in the art would obviously arrange the antenna and wireless receiver in the frame as suggested by Grein, [0038]) and ; wherein said electronic component receptacle defines a plurality of primary openings communicating with said compartment interiors and facilitating selective installation or removal of said modular electronic components (fig. 1, Note all elements are open communications); wherein said electronic component receptacle additionally defines a plurality of auxiliary openings for accommodating wires extending between modular electronic components received by said compartment interiors and said flat panel TV screen (Antenna, Wireless A/V Receiver, Left and Right Speaker, Remote Receiver, FM Radio, IR Motion Sensor, Sleep Timer, Small LCD, Large LCD are wires connections); additionally comprising an electrical connector receptacle for receiving a multi-outlet electrical connector employed to provide an electrical connection between said modular electronic components and a source of electricity (Power Supply of fig. 1); wherein said electrical connector receptacle is integral with said frame (see para. [0038]).

It is noted that Grien suggests that all such variations and modifications may be made and the decorative frame may be embodiment with the television ([0056] and [0038]), this is evidence to one skill in the to modify Grien into the apparatus of Kohno, where Kohno suggests that decorative plates would be used in the high vision system for television.

Therefore, taking the teachings of Kohno and Grein as whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the teachings of Grien into the apparatus of Kohno in order to facilitate ease of viewing and use of the decorative frame. Doing so would

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allow the electronic receptacle to facilitate the transmission of video and sound between the interior and exterior.

4. Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kohno et al. (US 5,343,257) in view of Grein et al. (US 2001/0033344) as applied to claim 24, and further in view of Lin (US 6,826,859).

Re claim 26; the combination of Kohno and Grein does not particularly teach additionally comprising mat attachment structure for releasably attaching said mat to frame whereby said mat may be removed from said frame and replace by substitute mat as claimed.

However, Lin teaches mat attachment structure for releasably attaching said mat to frame whereby said mat may be removed from said frame and replace by substitute (figs. 3, 6).

Therefore, taking the teachings of Kohno, Grein, and Lin as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Lin into the combined apparatus of Kohno and Grein in order to provide different mat for decorative frame to facilitate viewing and use.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Neither Kohno, Grein, nor Lin teaches wherein said housing includes at least one loudspeaker communicating with said frame opening, said mat being formed of sound

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transmissive material and disposed over said at least one loudspeaker and blocking said at least one loudspeaker from view through said frame opening when said releasably attached frame and mat are connected to said flat panel TV screen.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Anderson (US 20040064986) discloses wall-integrated roll-up decoration for concealing object.

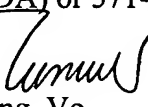
Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tung Vo whose telephone number is 571-272-7340. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on 571-272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Tung Vo
Primary Examiner
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